

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00118 141508Z

51

ACTION NEA-09

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P 141454Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2363

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0118

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, SY

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL CHECK ON J. GEROLD MCELROY

1. PRIVATE SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN, DR. ENG. M.Z. ABOUHARB, WHO WORKING WITH MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS ON ITS CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, HAS REQUESTED URGENT COMMERCIAL CHECK ON FOLLOWING U.S. FIRM: J. GERALD MCELROY, PENNSYLVANIA MINING COMPANY, 217 NORTH SIXTH STREET, READING, PENNSYLVANIA 19603. MCELROY HAS SIGNED CONTRACT WITH MIN. FOR SUPPLY OF CATERPILLER AND KENWORTH EQUIPMENT, TOTAL VALUE \$6,301,325, C AND F LATTAKIA:TARTOUS, SYRIA.

2. ABOUHARB WISHES RESPONSE ON COMMERCIAL BHECK SOONEST AS CONTRACT ALREADY SIGNED AND HE RECEIVING NEGATIVE INFORMATION FROM LONDON, ROSS AND CO. (JOHN BARR, POST HOUSE HOTEL, TEL. 01/759.2323) WHO MAY BE COMPETITOR OF MCELROY. BARR ALSO CALLED EMB. OFF. FROM LONDON JAN. 7 RE MCELROY'S INABILITY TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT UNDER THIS CONTRACT.

3. ACTIONS REQUESTED:

A. USDOC: PLEASE SUPPLY US WITH MOST IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL CHECK ON FIRM'S REPUTATION AND ABILITIES. (ABOUHARB IS MAKING SIMILAR CHECKS THROUGH BANKING SOURCES).

B. BEIRUT: APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING YOUR FILES, DUN AND BRADSTREET ETC. AND CABLING US ANY AVAILABLE INFO.

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C. LONDON: YOU MAY WISH TO SUPPLY ANY FURTHER INFO. RECEIVED
FROM ROSS AND CO., CABLING TO US AND USDOC.
MURPHY

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NNN

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